

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 22, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 4724.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4724) granting a pension to Mary L. Aleshire, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives hereto appended is adopted, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

The soldier served as captain of Company G, Eighteenth Ohio Infantry Volunteers from May 21, 1861, to August 28, 1861, and as captain of Eighteenth Ohio Battery Light Artillery from September 13, 1862, to June 29, 1865. He was appointed second lieutenant in the Third United States Artillery August 8, 1866, promoted to first lieutenant February 5, 1867, and served faithfully and efficiently until November 15, 1870, when he was honorably discharged, after a total period of service of seven years and four months.

Captain Aleshire has a hospital record of treatment for "bubonocoele," or inguinal hernia, from December 22, 1866, to January 29, 1867. He applied for pension July 31, 1885, and was pensioned at \$20 per month from that date for "left inguinal hernia," after special examination.

Widow was married to soldier June 6, 1867, and was pensioned under act of June 27, 1890, at \$8 per month from July 21, 1890, the soldier having died April 22, 1889.

The immediate cause of the death of the soldier is not shown by the evidence on file in the Pension Bureau. The claimant files an affidavit with the committee in which she alleges:

"My husband was a great sufferer for long years prior to his death, and the services of a physician were frequently, it might be said almost constantly, needed to mitigate and alleviate his sufferings. He had bronchitis and was troubled with a bad rupture, which was so difficult to control that it frequently baffled the skill of the best physicians, which caused him constant and often intense pain, and which, I believe, was the primary cause of his death."

Dr. James Johnston certifies to Captain Aleshire's great suffering from hernia, and of his frequently consulting this physician professionally for his trouble after his discharge from the service; that the physician often examined him and fitted a truss on him at different times, and that he had a very bad rupture, which was very hard to control by a perfect fitting truss, and that he knows that Captain Aleshire suffered a great deal from this cause; that from the nature of his disabilities and his general physical condition it is fair to presume that the remote cause of his death was due to disease contracted in the service.

Col. John L. Vance, who was a gallant soldier and an ex-Member of Congress, certifies and states that his relations with Captain Aleshire, from his early boyhood until his first enlistment, and from the time of his leaving the service until his death, were intimate; that he frequently heard him complain of suffering intensely from troubles originating while in the volunteer service, and particularly did he suffer, and was incalculably prostrated at times, from rupture. He believed and was advised, and those of his friends acquainted with his sufferings believed, that he was broken down in health by the service, and, "in my judgment," Colonel Vance says, "his death was the result thereof."

Mrs. Aleshire is advanced in years, in feeble health, and has no property or means of support except the pension she is now receiving.

From the facts presented your committee believe the bill is meritorious, and therefore earnestly recommend its passage.